GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6449
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2002
TESTING FOR AIDS
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Health has requested to his Ministry suggesting that those joining the armed forces may be tested for AIDS;

(b) if so, the reaction of his Ministry in this regard;

(c) whether only recruits have to go through a complete check-up or the whole armed forces are required to go under tests; and

(d) if so, the details regarding the policy of the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d): Do not arise in view of (a) above. However, the Government of India has announced the National AIDS Prevention and Control Policy in April 2002 which stipulates that no mandatory HIV testing should be imposed as pre-condition for employment or for providing health care facilities during employment. In the case of Armed Forces, before employment, HIV Screening may be carried out voluntarily with pre-test and post-test counselling and the result may be kept confidential.